

entirely to the advancement of the great moral issues of the day.

In analyzing his attitude, there were those who thought they saw another bid for the presidency on the prohibition issue. Others satisfied themselves that he had voluntarily divorced himself from his party, assuming of course that the mere suggestion of the adoption of the prohibition policy would paralyze his fellow Democrats. However, the public as yet has not been taken into his confidence.

It is difficult, indeed, to reconcile his recent utterances with the fact that he went to Washington shortly afterwards and was accorded more attention than any visiting potentate has a right to expect. Moreover, he attended the joint session of congress the other day and was the chief cheer-leader when the president appeared upon the scene. It all seems very strange to one who lacks imagination.

In the meantime, so we are informed, he has made arrangements to move from his old home in Nebraska and establish a residence in a southern state. We wonder whether he is seeking new fields for political conquest, or whether the turbulent old soul is mellowing with age and is really seeking some quiet retreat in a milder climate. But wherever he goes, the personal well wishes of millions of his countrymen will follow.

Women Come To The Rescue

THE prospects are that the high cost of living will shortly take a tumble. This for the reason that the housewives of the nation are up in arms against the outrageous schedule of prices current throughout the country. Those responsible for the present state of affairs now find themselves face to face with effective opposition. The women are organizing on every hand; they are bound to take a determined stand before long, and this move on their part may yet prove to be the country's real salvation. At first blush it seems to be a very simple solution to a most perplexing problem.

Women, after all, constitute the real purchasing power of the country, insofar as the necessities of life are concerned. While they do not of themselves create the demand, they at least determine the extent of the demand. In the regulation of domestic affairs it falls to their lot to determine upon the daily bill of fare and do the marketing. The American housewife of average circumstances was once fairly thrifty and made a practice of driving sharp bargains, but of late years she has developed extravagant tendencies. The result has been that in her desire to keep step with the procession she has contracted the expensive habit of considering luxuries as absolute necessities. She not only buys the best of everything in the market these days, but often insists upon a useless variety.

So it is that the simple old-fashioned repasts have disappeared. The same may be said of clothing and household furnishings. We have unwittingly educated our tastes until our modern mode of living has become the very essence of extravagance. Our failure to economize in our every day purchases has enhanced the demand for a better quality and a greater quantity than we can well afford, and this ever-increasing demand has enhanced the prices accordingly.

However, the housewife can save the situation if she will. If she reverts to the old-fashioned system of exercising rigid economy in the home and personally supervises her purchases as was the custom in the good old days of market-baskets, it will have a salutary effect upon the markets of the country. Prices, after all, in the face of an unlimited demand, are to a large degree arbitrarily fixed by the sellers, and a nation-wide boycott by the housewives in the form of more careful and

conservative purchasing will materially reduce the cost of living on every hand.

The President's Message

THE communication was very brief. The president confined his remarks for the most part to a reiteration of previous recommendations and a discussion of the unfinished business before congress.

The controversy between the railroads and the trainmen appears to be of the deepest concern to the president. He devoted the major portion of the message to a discussion of the intricacies of the situation and evidenced a determination to push his legislative program as outlined last summer to full completion. It would appear that he is fearful of future developments and is extremely anxious to place the government in the strongest possible position to meet whatever emergency may arise. Hence his insistence upon "the increase in the interstate commerce commission's membership and its facilities for performing its manifold duties, the provision for full investigation and assessment of industrial disputes, and the grant to the executive of the power to control and operate the railways when necessary in time of war or other like public necessity."

Of secondary concern in the message are three measures now pending before congress. The president desires the passage of the corrupt practices act at this particular time for the reason that the "present methods of obtaining and spending campaign funds stand clear under recent observation and the methods of expenditure can be frankly studied in the light of present experience." This statement suggests an ugly inference, but we quite agree with him that "action can be taken now with facts for guidance and without suspicion of partisan purpose."

He urges the extension of "greater freedom of combination to those engaged in promoting foreign commerce." In support of the upbuilding of our export trade he desires that congress "clear away all legal obstacles and create a basis of undoubted law which will give freedom without permitting unregulated license." This is a splendid idea, but can it not be applied to our domestic commerce as well. Moreover, the president insists that it "must be done now, because the opportunity is here and may escape us if we hesitate or delay."

As to the pending act which proposes to amend the organic law of Porto Rico, the executive insists that "there is an uneasiness among the people of the island and even a suspicious doubt with regard to our intentions concerning them which the adoption of the measure would happily remove." Hence the need for prompt action in this respect.

The president concludes his specific recommendations by urging the final passage of the bill providing for the promotion of vocational and industrial education on the grounds that it "concerns a matter, too long neglected, upon which the thorough industrial preparation of the country for the critical years of economic development immediately ahead of us in a very large measure depends."

Aside from the uncertain outlines of the proposed arbitration policy, the message is clear and concise, and goes straight to the point.

"Red Streaks Of Honesty"

THROUGH a law passed at the last session of the state legislature collection agencies in this state are required to put up a bond of \$5,000 as a guarantee to the people who place collections with them, and to the public, that they will conduct their business along legitimate lines and as a protection to the people for whom they collect. All right. The Merchant's Protective Association, of which one Francis G. Luke is the head, is a collection agency that has operated here for a long

time and in the past has been the subject of more or less newspaper discussion.

It isn't so very long ago that a man for whom it accepted and made a collection was given a check by Luke as his part of the collection as low as \$10 and the check came back. Not only that, but it came back a second time and the man finally got his money by leaving the check with an official of the banking institution with which Luke does business and that official took it out of the first deposit Luke made after that. Considering the fact that another man who waited a long time without results for his part of the money Luke had received on an account he placed with him, the holder of the check referred to, seems to have been lucky.

Now, Mr. Francis G. Luke, considering the methods you have employed here for years with the unfortunate and the dishonest alike, it would occur that sometimes those "red streaks of honesty" fade to a certain yellow.

The law compelling collection agencies to put up a bond was passed in 1913 and went into effect we believe in May of that year, when Mr. Luke or his representative appeared on the spot and put up a surety bond for the necessary amount. He was given a certificate for a year and all his advertising contained the information that he was bonded to the state of Utah for \$5,000.00, and a picture of the certificate appeared on his letterheads. At the time of the passing of the law the signs pointed to Luke as inspiring it and subsequently he and the Merchants Protective Association were very busy in discovering everyone who was conducting anything like a collection agency and reporting them to the state if they were not bonded.

His company secured a bond for the second year after the law was passed, and when that lapsed he or his representative arrived with a bond containing several names as personal sureties to the amount of the bond, \$5,000.00, which was not acceptable to the state which demands double the amount of the bond from such sources on account of the possibility of something happening to any one of the sureties.

The matter was threshed between the state and Luke, the former refusing to accept the bond, particularly in view of the time lapsing from the expiration of the previous bond and the next one was filed, which was not covered by any bond whatever. A complaint was filed, Luke's case was taken under advisement and he was bound over to the District court which has not made a decision on the matter as yet.

In justice to such collection agencies as are doing business on business lines it is time for the public to know something of the details of the Merchants' Protective Association, and the methods used by Luke, its head, in the conduct of its affairs.

Ah! Fine

GOVERNOR WEST of Oregon has been given a present by the Prohibitionists of that state in recognition of his efforts in making the state dry. And what do you think they gave him? A loving cup. The papers of the coast are having a lot of fun over it and well they may. The Portland Spectator draws attention to the important part the loving cup has played when men assemble to collide with John Barleycorn, but Town Talk of San Francisco takes the view that the lily whites cannot see the fun in it because if they had a sense of humor they wouldn't be Prohibitionists.

In line with the example set by their Oregon friends, it would be a nice thing for the Utah Prohibits to send Governor-elect Bamberger a case of 1904 Cliquot for Christmas, leaving it to him to find something to drink it from. In that way they could express their appreciation of what the Democracy is said to have in store for them and at the same time destroy more of the hated bubbles.